



DRAWING CLOSER

QUARTERLY

OCT-DEC 2021



I have an old apple tree in my yard that was planted long before I arrived. The first year we were there it produced a few apples. The second year we were there I decided to cut the tree way back. I was excited to see what would come, yet it produced a whopping 1 apple. I started to lose faith, but I waited patiently until the next year, keeping it trimmed and thinning branches in the spring. This year, there were so many apples on the tree I needed to remove 3 out of every 4 apples just to make room for them to grow. The harvest is abundant.

I believe our church has just gone through a similar season. God has led a number of longer-standing branches to find a new tree to graft onto, yet there is fresh growth coming in and new branches being grafted onto us. I believe that God has been drawing our communities closer to himself and they are finding Valley Chapel along the way. This next season will be all about getting to know each other and clarifying what God will have for us to accomplish in 2022.

You have seen first-hand how the tree feels thinned out, yet you have remained steadfast. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart for being in this transforming community with me. Thank you for your faithful giving, regular attendance, the groups led, the hours spent serving one another, the new relationships built, the openness to learning and growth. Thank you for trusting me and your leadership teams to guide us in alignment with God's work in our world.

Right now, our largest barrier to stability is financial. We've been able to keep spending under budget while maintaining the operation of all the ministries we planned for 2021, but we have been dipping heavily into our operating reserves. In seasons like this, it can be hard to trust that God will provide, but it's exactly when we don't know how God will provide for us that he does his best work. As you consider your holiday season, I would like to invite you to take some time with your household to reflect on what you might be called to give during the remainder of 2021. I think of Paul's words to the Corinthians...

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God," - 2 Corinthians. 9:12.

As we enjoy this season of growing anticipation of the overflowing love of God. Consider how God has provided for you this past year and how out of that abundance, you can participate at Valley Chapel. For the remainder of the year, we are going to be spending a lot of time clarifying who we are, what we do, and how we do it so that we can launch into 2022 with a fresh sense of identity and purpose. I trust that God will provide for the work he has for us and that you have a place in that work. Your choice to give, attend, and participate regularly communicates that you are ready to be a part of this great work.

May God draw you closer every day,
Pastor Ryan

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL/HOLIDAY SEASON



10/1 - 11/14

We will be collecting gently used coats to give to those in need.



10/3 - 10/24

The kingdom of God is not what you expect. A 4-week sermon series on Mark Chapter 10



10/18, 11/8, 12/6

Foodlink free food distribution. Volunteer and/or collect.



10/23, 11/20, 12/18

A morning of fellowship with other moms of children 0-18.



10/30

Offer candy to trick or treaters at Yummies ice cream from the trunk of your car. Candy donations needed



10/31 - 11/21

A 4-week sermon series on our mission, vision, values and identity.



11/18 & 11/20

We will be distributing the gently used coats we collected.



11/21 - 12/5*

Collecting Christmas gifts for a family in need

*Dates are estimated. Subscribe to the weekly update email for actual dates.



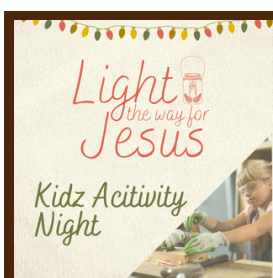
11/28 - 12/24

Celebrating Christmas through radical generosity on a global scale.



11/28 - 12/26

A sermon series about the rituals we use to prepare for the light of the world during Advent season.



12/4

Anticipating the coming Jesus through music, crafts, snacks and fun! Pre-k through 5th grade



12/5

Learn about what it means to officially partner with our community as a member.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL/HOLIDAY SEASON



12/9

We're partnering with other churches in Warsaw to give away a free lunch for you & your neighbors.



12/12

Our kidz will share a production celebrating the Christmas story.

REHEARSALS:
11/14, 11/21, 11/28,
12/5, 12/11



12/24

6:00 PM - Join us for our annual celebration of the coming of the light of the world.



12/26

Worship will be online only at 10:00 am to give our volunteers and production team a rest.

ONGOING GROUPS: VALLEYCHAPEL.ORG/GROUPS



MONDAYS

All women are invited to join Marsha Kersch and a group of ladies to enjoy time together studying the scriptures.



MONDAYS

All are welcome to come walk with no commitments. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



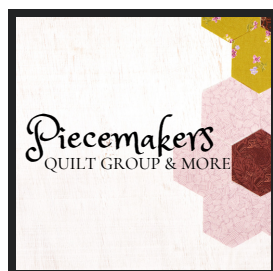
MONDAYS
(monthly)

Ladies in Fellowship Together meets once a month to learn a craft & enjoy each other's company.



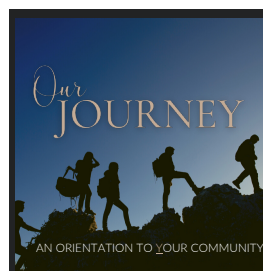
THURSDAYS

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.



FRIDAYS

We learn and practice the art of quilting as well as other handwork skills, believing that our creator God has given everyone the ability to create.



SUNDAYS
(monthly)

This is a 2-part orientation class. Part 1 is about The church (odd months). Part 2 is about you and ways to connect (even months).



FAITH CHECK-UP

Our vision is to be transforming into a community through whom God's love flows. The Apostle Paul once said, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." - Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Being in a constant state of transformation takes effort and, just like having regular check-ups with our doctors helps us stay healthy, having a regular check-up with our church helps us stay focused and healthy in our faith. The following checklist is a helpful tool to see if there are opportunities for you to connect through the remainder of 2021. Some will apply to you and some will not, so prayerfully consider each to see if God may be inviting you to draw closer in one of these ways.

- ☐ **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**
Worship gatherings are something we all have an important role in, so I attend most weeks
- ☐ **REGULAR GIVING**
Everything I have is God's and so I give consistently to God's work through the church
- ☐ **COMMUNION**
I have tried to regularly participate in the sacrament of communion each month
- ☐ **MEMBERSHIP**
I have formally committed to partner with Valley Chapel through voting, attending, serving, and giving
- ☐ **BAPTISM**
I have affirmed my faith in the triune God in the presence of a community of believers
- ☐ **PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL GROUP**
Faith is best developed in close community, so I have participated in a small group this year
- ☐ **LEAD A SMALL GROUP**
Jesus has called me to be a disciple-maker, so I led, started or hosted a small group this year
- ☐ **BIBLE STUDY**
God reveals his plan for the world through the scriptures. I have spent time reading the bible this year
- ☐ **LEADERSHIP**
I have committed to carry the responsibility to lead others in my church community
- ☐ **PRAYER**
I cultivate trust in God through regular prayers of praise, confession, thanks, and request
- ☐ **VOLUNTEER**
I gave my time toward the work of the church consistently as an event volunteer or as a part of a team
- ☐ **TRY SOMETHING NEW**
I have tried to connect with God and/or others in a way I had not tried before this year

If you would like to draw closer, then let us help by sending an email to valleychapelfmc@gmail.com

For more information: www.valleychapel.org



Valley Chapel

Available in App Stores



Roku



Fuel the mission



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